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SOURCE Zdravno Delo, No 5-6, 1951, p 17.

YAROSLAV HEMORRHAGIC FEVER

M. P. Chumakov

Comment: The following is an excerpt from a lecture given in Sofia 3 October 1951 by Prof M. P. Chumakov, Corresponding Member of the Academy of Medical Sciences USSR, Director of the Institute of Virology of the Academy of Medical Sciences USSR, and Laureate of a Stalin Prize, First Class. This lecture, which was published in Zdravno Delo, bears the title "D. I. Ivanovskiy and Soviet Medical Virology."

The adjective "yaroslavka," by which the hemorrhagic fever in question is designated in the original text, may have been derived from either Yaroslav in Poland or Yaroslavl' in Central Russia. On the basis of the geographical proximity of Yaroslav to Chernovtsy, one may perhaps assume that Yaroslav is the principal focus of the disease formerly referred to in Russian publications as Chernovtsy hemorrhagic fever or Bukovina hemorrhagic fever.

As an example of an original achievement of USSR virology, Prof A. A. Smorodintsev's work, which resulted in clarification of the etiology of Far Eastern nephroso-nephritis in 1940, may be mentioned. This comparatively rare virus-caused disease has been described and studied for the first time by USSR medical men.

Another example of an important discovery in the field of medical virology is represented by the results of a recent (1944 - 1950) exhaustive investigation of the etiology, epidemiology, and prophylaxis of a whole group of virus diseases which are new to science, i. e., the Crimean, Omsk, and Yaroslav [Yaroslavl' ?] hemorrhagic fevers. According to our data, the causative factors of these diseases are distinct species of filterable viruses.

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In the course of work on these diseases, participation of two different species of ticks as intermediate vectors in the transmission of Crimean hemorrhagic fever and Omsk hemorrhagic fever was established. Also, a method of inoculation against Omsk hemorrhagic fever was developed and applied with a great deal of success, and a specific method of serotherapy was introduced for the treatment of particularly severe cases of Crimean hemorrhagic fever.

The so-called Yaroslav hemorrhagic fever was discovered quite recently. Typical characteristics of this disease are a renal syndrome which sharply distinguishes it from the Crimean and Omsk hemorrhagic fevers as far as its clinical aspects are concerned; occurrence in the winter; absence of transmission by ticks; and an epidemiological connection with direct infection contracted from rodents of the mouse type.

The data outlined above have been definitely confirmed by the work of a number of scientific expeditions. As a result of the work of these expeditions, distinct progress has been achieved by Soviet virology in the study of a problem that is new to science, i. e., the problem of hemorrhagic fever, which is of great importance for disease prevention.

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